

REMARKS

Reconsideration and entry of the above amendments are respectfully requested. Claims 2, 6, 11, 14, 16, 18-20, 22, 26, 31, 34-36, and 38-40 have been amended. Claims 1, 13, 15, 21, and 33 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 2-12, 14, 16-20, 22-32, and 34-40 are pending.

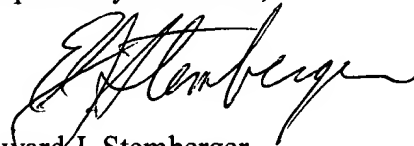
Applicants have not received an Advisory Action with regard to the Response under Rule 116 filed on June 21, 2004. A copy of that Response was faxed to the Examiner on October 7, 2004. In any event, to place this application in condition for allowance, allowable claims 6, 16, 26, and 36 have been re-written in independent format. All pending claims depend from these independent claims.

To ensure that this application remains pending, a Notice of Appeal accompanies this Amendment along with the appropriate extension fees.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed this application is in condition for allowance, and such as Notice is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any missing or insufficient fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), to Deposit Account No. 50-1130, under Order No. 95-430, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,


Edward J. Stemberger
Registration No. 36,017

Customer No. 23164

(202) 261-1014

Facsimile (202) 887-0336

Date: October 19, 2004